



European Patent Office
80298 MUNICH
GERMANY
Tel. +49 (0)89 2399 - 0
Fax +49 (0)89 2399 - 4465

Copy



Grünecker, Kinkeldey,
Stockmair & Schwanhäusser
Anwaltssozietät
Leopoldstrasse 4
80802 München
ALLEMAGNE

GRÜNECKER, KINKELDEY, STOCKMAIR
& SCHWANHÄUSSER
ANWALTSSOZIENTÄT

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Reference EP34311TS900dfi	Application No./Patent No. 03748522.4 - 2202 / 1538848 PCT/JP0311604
Applicant/Proprietor Panasonic Corporation	

Communication

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the supplementary European search report under Article 153(7) EPC for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

- ☒ 1 additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

Refund of the search fee

If applicable under Article 9 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



**SUPPLEMENTARY
EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number
EP 03 74 8522 ✓

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X (1)	<p>WO 01/78372 A (AVID TECHNOLOGY INC [US]) 18 October 2001 (2001-10-18)</p> <p>* page 19, last paragraph - page 26, paragraph 2 *</p> <p>* page 15, paragraph 2 *</p> <p>* page 12, paragraphs 3,4 *</p> <p align="center">-----</p>	1,3, 8-17,19, 21-26	<p>INV. H04N9/64</p>
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			H04N
<p>The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.</p>			
<p>Place of search</p> <p align="center">Munich</p>		<p>Date of completion of the search</p> <p align="center">10 March 2009</p>	<p>Examiner</p> <p align="center">Penchev, Petyo</p>
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A : technological background</p> <p>O : non-written disclosure</p> <p>P : intermediate document</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D : document cited in the application</p> <p>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p> </div> </div>			

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- ☒ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 03 74 8522 ✓

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1,3,8-10 (part), 11-17,19,21-26 (part)

memory colors correction apparatus using information of a photographic scene for correcting the color signal.

2. claims: 2, 4-7, 8-10 (part), 18, 20, 21-26 (part)

memory colors correction apparatus using the luminance component for correcting the color signal.

The subject-matter of claim 1 lacks clarity because the wording "information of identifying a photographic scene" is not standard wording in the field, and from its definition alone is not possible to determine what kind of information is used. Further, giving a broad interpretation of the above term, the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new, because document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

An image processing apparatus of correcting the color of a predetermined range of a pixel signal for each pixel included in an input image signal, comprising:

target color setting means of setting a target color depending on which the color of said pixel signal is corrected (page 20, line 10, ref. 153', fig. 11b), and

color conversion means of carrying out correction to make the color of said pixel signal coincident with or close to said target color (page 20, lines 4-10) by using said pixel signal (page 21, lines 3+), information of identifying a photographic scene by also using information, other than pixel information, included in said pixel signal, and said target color (page 15, lines 7-13, <the user select plurality of pixels of a common object such as sky, i.e. information of identifying a photographic scene>).

Independent claim 2 is directed to apparatus which calculates the correction degree based on the chromaticity component and luminance signal.

The common concept linking together independent claims 1 and 2 is the following: color conversion means of carrying out correction to make the color of said pixel signal coincident with or close to said target color. This common concept is not novel, see the novelty objection above.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is not new and therefore it has no special technical features.

The subject-matter of claim 2 differs from the disclosure of D1 in that the luminance signal is used for determining the correction degree, in order to improve the correction amount by considering the influence of the luminance.

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 03 74 8522 ✓

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

Thus, there is no a technical relationship between those inventions involving the same or corresponding special technical features Rule 44 (1) EPC, and the requirement for unity of invention referred to in Article 82 EPC is not fulfilled.

EP 03 74 8522

10-03-2009

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0178372 A	18-10-2001	US 2003016866 A1 US 6477271 B1	23-01-2003 05-11-2002